

Hauxton Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers
summarised by
Mike Petty

Mike Petty, Stretham
2022

SITY JOURNAL, NOVEMBER 16, 1921.

7

Hauxton's Tribute to Its Glorious Dead

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3 4

Chronicle Photos.]
Erected in the churchyard to the memory of the five Hauxton men who made the Great Sacrifice, the memorial, which takes the form of an old English cross combined with a laurel wreath of victory, was unveiled by Mr. T. Mead, who lost two sons in the war, on Sunday week. (1) The dedication by the Vicar (the Rev. R. E. Colebrook). On the right is Mr. H. W. Hurrell, of Harston, who gave an address. (2) The large crowd assembled round the memorial. (3) Scene during the sounding the "Last Post" by Mr. Norman Thompson, of Harston. (4) Ex-Service men who, under Lieut. V. H. Northrop, of Harston, formed the Guard of Honour.

Gun-Running at Cambridge.

Hauxton Scrapbook 1897-1990

Introduction

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my ‘Looking Back’ column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete ‘Cambridgeshire Scrapbook’ of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from
See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

1898 10 24

Thriplow fires, Hauxton, p3

1907 08 23

On a summer evening the little whitewashed, thatched cottages by the roadside at Hauxton, radiant with climbing roses, seem a little paradise. No thought of sanitation or overcrowding which are rife in these old-fashioned structures is allowed. At Whittlesford Bridge is the Red Lion Inn with its carved oak ceiling, maze of bedrooms and winding, precipitous staircase. Alongside is the thatched chapel with a paddock at the end which was an ancient burial place where bones have been unearthed.

07 08 23

1907 09 25

A clergyman of the Church of England, formerly curate of Hauxton, with two small children dependent on him, told the court that his income was £150 a year and he was very much in debt. Recently he changed his curacy, but that had put him further in debt. He was unable to get a suitable house except at a price he really could not afford to pay. Now he'd arranged with his Vicar that £25 of his salary should be set aside every half-year to pay his creditors. 07 09 25

1907 12 17

Hauxton School should be closed to children who have passed the third standard and they must attend Shelford or Harston schools, the Education authority decided in the interests of economy. But parents objected and eight were summoned for not sending their children to school. It meant a walk of a mile-and-a-half, they would get wet and sit in wet things all day as there was no chance of drying them. But the entire school population of Wood Ditton, Croxton and Eltisley had to walk that distance. -
07 12 17 & a

1907 12 28

Hauxton school – interview with vicar – 07 12 28b

1908 01 03

Hauxton school, p5

1908 01 17

Bottisham, Lode and Hauxton have Church Schools where the clergy have the right of entry and control of religious education of Church of England children each morning. Hitherto the children of Nonconformists have been allowed to run about the village until the hour for religious instruction has concluded. Now they are to receive simple Bible teaching from the Council teachers. 08 01 17a

1908 01 17

Hauxton school controversy – 08 01 17c

1908 02 07

The Hauxton school controversy was the subject of a public inquiry: it has been closed to older children who have to attend Harston or Shelford schools. Parents have refused to do this and a number of prosecutions have been instituted. Now they have employed a lawyer. The school was built for all

standards but now it was likely the average attendance would fall and the council would close it completely. One mother said it was desirable a child should be allowed to go to school when it was four years old. 08 02 07 i & j.

1908 03 19

Military manoeuvres attracted considerable attention. One force, including Perse School cadets, was ordered to hold the line of the Cam from Trumpington to the Mill Inn, Hauxton. Timber and cordage was seized from some scaffolding and the engineering section constructed a bridge sufficient to have carried Cavalry. The whole of the Cambridge University mounted infantry was captured, which would have had disastrous results in a real war. 08 03 19a

1908 05 29

A pitched battle was fought at Hauxton feast upon the platform of a steam roundabout going round at full speed. While the villagers confined themselves to nature's weapons, the showmen resorted to sticks and heated irons taken from the boiler of the engine. Women children in their arms who were taking rides upon the whirligig tumbled haphazard from their mounts to escape the turmoil, terrified out of their wits at the sight of the two factions fighting like wild animals. CWN 08 05 29 p3

1908 10 09

Provision of smallholdings Hauxton, Cottenham, Steeple Morden & Haslingfield – CWN 08 10 09

1909 10 29

A few playful little sparks from a passing traction engine ignited thatched roofs and caused a big fire at Hauxton. The Leather Gaiters public house together with two large barns and various stacks were destroyed and animals roasted alive. The engine was drawing several waggon loads of the University Officers Training Corps who were engaged in a sham fight in the neighbourhood. CDN 09 10 29

1910 05 20

The Leather Gaiters public house at Hauxton caught fire in October last year shortly after a steam wagon passed. It was supposed that some flying sparks had ignited the thatch and the flames spread with great rapidity until the house was gutted. The business has been carried on in a barn while the pub has been rebuilt to the satisfaction of the Parish Council. But rumours that there will be free beer on the reopening night are unfounded 10 05 20c

1911 03 03

Hauxton Council School had 59 children on the books, which was too many for the space in which they were able to do their lessons. But six came from Shelford parish and there were seven under the age of five. If the managers excluded these, there would be sufficient room. The problem was due to the bad arrangement of the large room and Councillor Hurrell did not see why the parish should be asked to build a new school. Nor had the owner of the school, the Vicar, been approached with a view to enlarging it. The county should consider purchasing it from him. 11 03 03b

1911 12 15

Hauxton School was built on land belonging to the Vicar but is now too small. The County Council offered to buy it or to erect an entirely new one. Instead the Vicar offered to rebuild the old one provided he could continue to provide religious instruction. Children of nonconformists could be

withdrawn from these lessons. But the school was built by voluntary subscriptions, it should be returned to the people of Hauxton and instruction left to County Council teachers. 11 12 15h
Hauxton school – vicar's offer – 11 12 15f

1913 01 03 CIP

Education committee - proposed joint farm institute, medical treatment, lectures pig keeping etc;
Fowlmere school alterations to provide 115 place; Hauxton new school

1913 06 06

Hauxton pond useless

1913 10 10 CIP

Hauxton willow tree stolen

1914 01 02

Hauxton Christmas festivities - 14 01 02e

1915 09 10

Hauxton new vicar, from Burwell – Colebrooke

1915 09 24

Farewell to a Vicar. A very interesting gathering of the villagers of Hauxton took place at the school on Wednesday week at which goodbye was said to the Vicar, who has left to take up the living of Wentworth. Parishioners showed in a concrete form the esteem and respect in which Mr. and Mrs. Swann had been held in the village. Mr. Lionel January, on behalf of the subscribers, made a presentation in a few appropriate words, expressing regret at the loss of Mr. and Mrs. Swann. He spoke of the good work they had both done in the parish during the past 15 years. The Rev. Swann replied suitably, and expressed sincere thanks for the handsome present received (this took the form of a silver-plated tea kettle and a tray of silver-plated egg cups), and for the kindness shown him during his stay. The presents would always be a reminder of the happy days spent at Hauxton. 15 09 24 CIP

1919 03 12

Bus service allegations of inadequacy, irregularity and overcrowding; interview with J.B. Walford of Ortona with details, including wartime when ran buses to Ministry of Munitions works at Hauxton and Grantchester – 19 03 12b # c.26.46 # c.45.5

1919 10 29 CIP

Wholesale thefts of Government property were described at the Shire Hall, Cambridge, on Saturday morning, when four prisoners were charged with stealing bedding, bedsteads, and various other articles the property of the Ministry of Munitions. In the corridors outside the County Divisional Police Court were heaps of blankets, sheets, pillows, bed ticks and iron bedsteads, and inside the court was another miscellaneous collection of articles, which were exhibits in the case. The bulk of the property was stolen from the Coprolite Works at Trumpington, but a number of the articles had been removed from, the munitions works at Gretna Green, and conveyed by the prisoners to Trumpington. Married men who were employed at the Coprolite Works were permitted to bring their families to live in the huts at the works. The goods were stolen from a store hut practically next door to the hut in which the accused lived. The wife had called at the Red Lion, Trumpington and asked the landlord if

he would buy some blankets. She said she had kept the huts on Hauxton Road and let lodgings, now people were leaving the district she had a surplus supply. But Army blankets were a kind of their own and nobody had a right to sell them without authority. Three of the prisoners were sent to gaol. The fourth offender—a lad of 15—was bound over. 19 10 29 Ch 19 10 29 CIP

1921 09 14

Hauxton's first fete – 21 09 14c

1921 11 16

Hauxton war memorial unveiling – 21 11 16k

1928 10 11

The churchwardens of Hauxton brought a suit against Mr J.H. Stevens of Brookside Cambridge for repairs to the chancel of the church which was at present very much out of order. The roof was sagging, rafter rotting and there were tiles off. Mr Stevens was now owner of various lands, the profits of which had been used in the past to pay for repairs. But he was not the lay rector or he would have the right to sit in the principal place in the chancel. He had paid tithe but had not been told of any responsibility to repair the chancel, if he had known he would not have bought the land 1928 10 20 Judgement was given in the case brought by Hauxton Parochial Church Council relating to the liability to repair the chancel of Hauxton parish council. After investigation of ancient documents it was found that liability for such repair devolved upon the person who owned certain lands. Although he denied that he had been made aware of this when he brought the land, Mr Stevens had paid certain sums to the vicar, which had been another part of the responsibilities specified. It was therefore adjudged that he was indeed responsible for the repairs to the chancel.

1929 07 01

Hauxton church maintenance, county councillor gaoled, p8*

1929 07 02

Hauxton church dispute – questions raised in parliament, p8*

Hauxton church – Stevens released

1929 07 05

An ecclesiastical bombshell has been dropped by the sentence of John Stevens, a wealthy Cambridgeshire landowner and a member of the County Council, to an indefinite period of confinement by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Ely. In 1916, he purchased 17 acres of land at Hauxton. A clause in the centuries-old deeds laid it down that the landlord was responsible for the upkeep of the church chancel. However, the clause was omitted from the deed of transfer which was given to him. Upon the present vicar coming to the parish, he went into the question of repairing the chancel. A year ago, the case was bought before the Ely Consistory Court when the Chancellor of the Diocese ruled that Mr. Stevens was liable for repairs and issued a decree. Mr. Stevens is alleged to have ignored the decree until he believed himself to be in danger of being sent to prison, then placed an order with a local contractor to undertake the repairs. He refused to pay the fees of the Consistently Court and the case was put into the hands of solicitors. A writ was issued against him and he was conveyed to Bedford gaol. Mr Stevens is a busy man and friends are exerting every effort to have the repairs to the church carried out with the least possible delay. Even when these are completed it is

unlikely that he will be released from gaol for some days because before he can return home the Diocesan Surveyor has to examine and approve the works

1929 07 06
Hauxton church, p5*

1929 07 08
Hauxton church – threatening letters , p8

1929 07 12 ES
The final act in the ecclesiastical drama was staged in the South Transept of Ely Cathedral and people occupied seats long before the central figure, a well-known landowner and County Councillor appeared. He was summoned to appear before the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Ely for refusing to carry out repairs to the parish church of Hauxton as laid down in a clause in old deeds of land that he had bought in 1916. He was a man, apparently well-off, who had tried to shoulder off on the parishioners of a small country parish and obligation which he took over with his eyes open. He was now entirely penitent and willing to do the church repairs. 29 07 12ES

1929 10 28
The Lord Chancellor has appointed a Government Committee to inquire into the whole question of the power of the Church to have offences against ecclesiastical law punished by imprisonment. At present the Consistory Court can only enforce its orders by application to the High Court. This is a sequel to the remarkable case of a Cambridge landowner who was sent to Bedford Prison for failing to pay for the repair of the church roof at Hauxton. Now the Committee is to consider whether the law should be altered.

1930 05 23
The jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts over chancel repairs should be abolished, a Committee suggests. It was appointed following a dispute at Hauxton where a landowner refused to accept liability and was sent to Bedford Gaol. Notice should be given in writing to those responsible for such repairs and proceedings taken in the County Court should there be a dispute. 30 05 23

1930 08 05
Hauxton bridge crash, p8

1931 06 05
The opening meet of the Eastern Counties Otter Hounds took place at Hauxton Mill where a good dog otter was put down at Lutton Osiers. After hunting him up and down streams as far as Haslingfield for three hours he had to be given up, bad scent and too much water making hunting most difficult, and everyone was soaked to the skin by the downpour. While the miller's wife was admiring the hounds from her front door, some of them walked into her dining room and mopped up a nice leg of mutton.
31 06 05 & a

1931 12 18
The Ouse and Cam Fishery Board had failed to net the carp in ponds at Hauxton and Fenstanton as they had 'muddled' for the winter, but the drawing of lakes at Madingley and Longstowe Hall had

yielded 15,000 fish, mostly roach and rudd. Several thousand gudgeon were also taken from Hinxton Mill and placed in the Granta at Cambridge. 31 12 18b

1932 09 23

Ambulance men had to carry stretchers nearly two miles through boggy fields, sometimes knee deep in swamp, before they could reach the victims of an aeroplane crash near Hauxton. The De Haviland Gipsy Moth, hired from Marshall's Aerodrome, suffered engine failure and struck the top of a tree. The journey back to the ambulance proved more difficult but was helped by a C.D.N. van driver. 32 09 23f

1935 08 07

Hauxton bridge dangerous – 35 08 07

1936 08 10

John Herbert Stevens dies - disputed the repair of chancel Hauxton Church – 36 08 10

1936 12 17

Lorry fire at Independent Oil Supplies garage by mill at Hauxton – 36 12 17 & a

1941 10 03

Large sale at Hauxton. Farmers from all over England attended a dispersal sale at Manor Farm, Hauxton, on Friday afternoon, when the entire attested herd of pure-bred Jersey cattle and seven horses, in addition to a quantity of agricultural implements and dairy utensils of Mr. H. B. Hart were sold by auction. The steady prices which prevailed proved that while show stock is in demand these times at a discount, there is a real demand for quality milk producers. 41 10 03

Heavy fall of snow on Hauxton Rd, Jan 1940 – photo – 40 02 08 # c.12

1942 01 02 CIPof

Death of Mr H.B. Hart. Cambs Cricket Club lost a valuable old servant and one of its most active members by the death of Mr Harold B. Hart, of Manor Farm Hauxton. Mr. Hart, who died on Monday at the age of 54, had been in failing health for some time. He first played cricket for Cambs in 1913, and continued till 1935. Elected joint secretary in 1920, he was also appointed captain in 1927 and for some seasons combined these offices. He worked exceptionally hard in the lean period following the resumption of cricket after the last war, and had the satisfaction of seeing these energetic efforts rewarded by the building up of a useful side. A fine batsman in his younger days, he also played for Camden and Royston. He was also associated for many years with Royston Town Football Club of which he was captain, and earned a big reputation as a centre-half. Mr Hart had been at Manor Farm for about three years. Before that he lived for 19 years at Harston, where he was bailiff to the late Sir Charles Walston

1942 09 18 CIPof

Met in the Desert. Some interesting facts have come to light regarding two Hauxton brothers who are now reported prisoners of war in the Middle East. Despite the fact that they were sent abroad at different dates, they met in the desert and fought together at Tobruk before the capitulation. They are now both prisoners in the same Italian camp. The two brothers are Lance Corporal Sidney Frank Mead, husband of Mrs. Eva Mead, of The Lane, Hauxton and Driver Richard Frederick Mead, who is unmarried. Their mother resides at Hauxton Mill

1943 11 19

Guide Medal-Winner. Sixteen-year-Old Joan Phyllis Folkes, of 60 Windsor Road, Cambridge, has been awarded the Gilt Cross of the Girl Guides Association for bravery in rescuing 18-year-old Joyce Collis from the Hauxton Mill when they were on a camping holiday last Whitsun. It happened that there were several Girl Guides bathing at the time, but they were quite unaware that Joyce was in difficulties, Joan noticed that the other girl had already gone under twice, and quickly dived and got her out—Joan is a Patrol Leader of the Poppy Patrol in the 12th County School Company, and holds several proficiency badges, with service stars and a war service badge. 43 11 19

1948 10 06

Fears that the river flowing at Cambridge's famous "Backs" would be turned into a "stinking sewer" by the discharge of waste water were expressed at a meeting of the Federation of Anglers. The chairman said: "Last April your river resembled an open sewer. We saw this discolouration and received all sorts of assurances about it - but what were these assurances worth?" The secretary held aloft a bottle of whisky coloured liquid which he said was a sample taken from the river Riddy, a stream which runs into the Cam near Hauxton pond. He said the discolouration had been caused by the seepage of yellow dye and the smell had been likened to creosote

1949 11 25

The character of Hauxton Gap would be altogether destroyed if ten houses were built there, it was claimed at a Planning Inquiry when Mr Baynes appealed against Council refusal to let him build houses on his own land. He proposed to put them up opposite others that had been built before there was planning control. The backs of the proposed houses would be seen from the main Cambridge-London road, and the impression given would be one of continuous development from the start of Harston along two miles of roadway. Asked if he knew there had been complaints about the smell from the nearby Pest Control, Mr Baynes said it was unusual that a site cannot be developed because somebody else is committing a nuisance.

1950 07 24

The hearing of cases against a Cambridgeshire chemical company alleging pollution of the river has opened. They have pleaded not guilty to five summons to knowingly permitting liquid matter to flow into the River Riddy, which was poisonous or injurious to fish. The offences are alleged to have occurred at Hauxton. Evidence was given that dead or dying fish were passing under Fen Causeway at the rate of about 100 every five minutes

1950 08 25

In 1945 Chesterton R.D.C. granted permission for the erection of five pairs of houses on the junction of Newton Rd, Hauxton. The application was approved by Cambridge Borough Council who were the inter-development authority under the draft planning scheme. The County Council now wish to stop further development to prevent the joining up of the villages of Harston & Hauxton and bring to an end the straggling of ribbon development along these roads, an inquiry was told

1952 12 06

The Government has refused permission for Messrs W. Wisbey to excavate sand and gravel from a field at Hauxton that the parish council wanted to use as a playing field, but permission has been

granted for working in three other fields, about 30 acres in all. They have laid down conditions designed to minimise the damage to the amenities of the village.

1953 02 11

Pest Control of Harston appealed against the refusal of planning permission for an extension of their works. The County planners said they do not think it in the interest of Cambridgeshire that there should be an increase of major industry. It was their duty to protect the beauty and well-being of the county. The production site of the factory should never have been started at Hauxton at all and it must not be allowed to expand. There had been complaints of unpleasant smells and discolouration and pollution of the river

1955 01 15

Complaints of flooding in the Hauxton Mill to Shelford area have been investigated and the River Cam will be dredged to eliminate the risk of summer flooding. No such scheme for improvement has previously ever been undertaken by the Great Ouse Catchment Board. The proposed by-pass at Barton Mills would involve a dual-carriageway bridge directly over the lock gate and reduce the length of the lock by 25 feet. But there was no active navigation on this part of the River Lark and a combined bridge and sluice structure could be built.

1955 05 24

Cambridge was 'invaded' by nearly 600 London Auxiliary Fire Service men and women. They travelled in 80 green emergency fire-fighting vehicles for a large-scale exercise. The new radio control system worked perfectly and only one small group of vehicles managed to get lost. Some vehicles went to the old 'Shorts' factory at Madingley Road, the others to Wisbech's gravel pit Hauxton for pumping exercises. 55 05 24

1955 11 22

Hauxton, a beautiful village, has been ruined by industry, a parish councillor told planners. Residents were troubled with noise, dust, smell and smoke from the Camtiles factory and the increase in the number of workmen had encroached on their privacy. Many industries had sprung up in the village but there had been no council houses built since 1938. Thirty years ago the village was wholly agricultural, now there were only two people employed on the land. 55 11 22a & b

1955 11 25 CIP

"Hauxton ruined by industry" p17

1957 06 07

The Minister has approved plans to reduce the rate of growth of Cambridge but increase the development of nearby villages like Histon, Girton, Milton and Coton. However no deliberate expansion will take place at Teversham, Hauxton, Madingley or Grantchester. Villages can only preserve their identity and character if they remain physically separate from each other so a Green Belt will be introduced. 57 06 07a

1959 03 28

A new Village College may be provided at Shelford to take children from Stapleford, Harston and Hauxton, providing a compact area with economic transport arrangements. It would avoid the expansion of Sawston and Melbourn village colleges when the school leaving age is raised to 16. But

it is not included in the Development Plan and it is not thought likely there would be any considerable increase in population. 59 03 28

1960 03 18

The death of Mr W.D. Arnold of the Grocery Stores, Hauxton has left a gap in village life which will be hard to fill. He was badly wounded in the 1914-18 war but with great courage took over a small grocery business which he ran for 38 years. The only store in the village, it became the hub of parochial life. Despite his disability he became a founder member of the Hauxton Home Guard and served continuously until it was stood down in 1944. Evidence of his popularity was shown by the forty floral tributes at his funeral. 60 03 18a

1960 04 11

The Rev Hugh Mansfield-Williams who is leaving Harston and Hauxton after six years will be remembered for sitting by the roadside on Poppy Day to collect money from his parishioners for the church restoration fund and for his work for the youth of the villages by the formation of a successful youth club 60 04 11

1961 01 21

The Hauxton postmistress was alone in the front hallway her bungalow, which is used as the post office, when a man pushed aside a small table on which she worked and demanded 'Hand over the money and keep your mouth shut'. The postmistress keeps a tin of pepper and a heavy metal weight in a handy drawer but had no time to use them. The robber made off with £20 in cash but missed a considerable sum of money in an envelope which she threw into an adjoining room when he threatened her.— 61 01 21

1961 12 09

Five villages, Graveley, Ickleton, Hauxton, Toft and Whaddon, have been stimulated into getting their own village halls through the closure of their local church schools. In the past they have been unable to afford the cost but now hope to purchase the buildings and convert them. The Ministry of Education has made grants for new halls at Stetchworth, Barrington and Lt Shelford while the Carnegie Trust has funded others at Newton, Orwell and Weston Colville. 61 12 09

1961 02 10

Hauxton: village feature – 61 02 10 CIP

1972 04 18

Hauxton & bypass, p11

1973 09 19

The environmental effects on the Cambridgeshire countryside and a number of villages in the building of the Cambridge bypasses are given in the Government's go-ahead to the projects. The inspector concludes that at Grantchester environmental intrusion would be mitigated by a properly conceived planting scheme & the effects on the village would not be serious. At Hauxton and Lt Shelford the environmental effects, though great, would not be intolerable. The Inspector does not support Girton's claims that the area will be severed in any practical sense by the Cambridge Northern Bypass. The new road would pass in a cutting and noise screening is recommended. At Fenstanton the Inspector thinks that the noise problem is more important than any partial severance of the village by the A604. He recommends noise screening

1974 10 09

If you're looking for home in the Cambridge or Huntingdon area there's really only one place to go. David Charles. Wherever you want to live and whatever you want to pay you are almost sure to find your perfect home. Orchard End, Bluntisham – around £12,500; all have four good-sized bedrooms, fitted kitchen and full gas-fired central heating. The Elms, Dry Drayton - 21 four-bedroomed luxury homes a mere 15 miles from Cambridge from £17 - £18,000. Lanes End, Hauxton offers you a host of good things like beautiful countryside, shops, schools, entertainment and very attractive homes at realistic prices – around £13,500 – Advert

1977 04 07

Hauxton village hall, p10

1977 04 18

After four years of meetings, negotiations and hard work the villages of Hauxton have at last got their Village Hall. The opening by village storekeeper Mr Merrick Arnold marked the climax of a scheme thought up by the Women's Institute years ago. When a new school was built in 1974 a special committee set about raising £10,000 to buy the old school. Teams of volunteers knocked down walls, replaced plumbing and painted the walls. The chairman of the parish council, Mr Malcolm Woolf said it was "something the whole village should be proud of"

1979 07 25

Hauxton mosquitos, p11

1979 12 06

Villagers at Harston, Hauxton and Foxton were spellbound as they watched a swarm of unidentified flying objects dodging around the sky but the entertainment turned to fear when a massive UFO hovered low past the village pub where the regulars called in the police. People hid away indoors rather than face the brilliant flashing lights and others drove off the road to avoid being under the flight paths. Police say there was no local flying and an astronomer said that there had recently been a number of reports of unusual lights in the sky, though nothing like these – 79 12 06

1980 01 11

Reports of a UFO which held Harston villagers spellbound have been received from other parts of the world. A researcher who investigated the phenomenon says they appear to be genuine descriptions of an unknown technology. Other reports have been received locally. Desmond January, a Cambridge estate agent, said he watched a line of three white lights which he thought at first were helicopters, but there was no noise and one shot away at right angles up into the sky. Another resident of Hauxton reported something similar that evening while on New Year's Day a lady described seeing a dark cylindrical object pass over her home in Hills Road, Cambridge. The following day two teenagers at Girton told of a light 'burning like magnesium ribbon'

1985 10 30

Thirty years ago Jack Frost of Hauxton started a motor business in a cowshed. Now he keeps the handicapped mobile. His garage has been the official supply and repair centre for invalid cars for some years with a number of standby vehicles that can be exchanged for broken down vehicles. The familiar blue plastic three-wheelers have automatic transmission and are powered by a two-cylinder

Steyr-Puch engine. The firm also looks after wheelchairs and three-wheel bikes of all descriptions. 85
10 30

1986 01 28

Hauxton villagers were told of the impressive safety record of FBC Chemicals which uses toxic gases phosgene and chlorine. But some still feared a major industrial accident after they learned that a small amount of isocyanate – the chemical at the centre of the Bhopal disaster – was stored at the plant. They asked for detailed instructions on what to do if the emergency siren sounded. 86 01 28

1987 09 30

Hauxton was sealed off by police after an explosion at the Schering Agrochemicals plant. More than 400 staff were evacuated when a can of fungicide exploded in the packing plant causing a fire with billowing smoke. Thirty firemen worked alongside the firm's own staff together with a special chemical instrument unit to contain the blaze and an emergency control room was set up in the firm's security block. Police set up road blocks preventing all traffic from entering the village. 87 09 30 87
10 01a

1988 02 08b

Emergency plans have been drawn up for Hauxton residents in case of an accident involving two potentially deadly gases, chlorine and phosgene, at the Schering Agrochemicals plant. Should a siren sound people living within 1,500 metres are advised to go indoors, close windows and stay in a room facing away from the works. There have been two explosions over the past four years: 400 staff were evacuated after a can of fungicide exploded and in 1983 a building was destroyed following a blast in which six people were injured. But the company says it had never had any incidents which could cause a hazard to residents. 88 02 08b

1989 03 29

Environmentalists claim Anglian Water has allowed the discharge of toxic waste into the Cam at Hauxton. Friends of the Earth say Schering Agrochemicals pumped 'groundwater polluted by an old toxic waste tip buried under the factory into the river. But the firm says a three metre layer of blue clay round the factory prevents contamination of the surrounding land and various processes to make the water safe were followed. 89 03 29